

Sir/Madam,

Please reject Petition 04-160 - as a "wired" consumer, I enjoy my digital satellite radio more than I have ever enjoyed FM radio broadcasts. As more and more consumer telecommunication services are moving towards digital technologies (HD Radio, HDTV OTA), I believe the change is inevitable.

The National Association of Broadcasters is attempting to maintain their current lock on FM markets by preventing XM Satellite Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio from offering localized services over their subscription services. The consumer's ability to choose which vendor they receive their local news and information from has been one that has been upheld for a long time - in the Greater Seattle area, I have at least 4 television outlets from which I can receive local news: KOMO, KIRO, KING, and KCPQ television. The FM and AM bands are similarly populated. (In this argument, it's worthwhile noting that at least two of the largest radio conglomerates - Clear Channel and Infinity Broadcasting - are expanding their practices of removing local stations from their localities, and simply using a common broadcast with different interstitials to appear from the locality.) With the launch of XM Satellite Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio, I now have potentially two more avenues of receiving my local information.

As a consumer of digital satellite services, I urge you to reject Petition 04-160, and maintain the consumer's choice of local news offerings.

Thank you for your time.